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Date 7-14-16

TO: The Deputy Secretary
FROM: H - Brian Atwood
SUBJECT: Briefing Paper for the Deputy Secretary/PRC Meeting on Argentina

We have received, literally at the eleventh hour, a draft briefing paper for you to use at a PRC meeting on Argentina scheduled for Wednesday, May 14. The central issue posed by the options paper is whether we should consider improving relations with Argentina, particularly by permitting the sale of military training to Argentina.

I very much regret that this paper was sent to H so late in the ~~evening~~ ^{clearance process}. To permit military training to Argentina, as is recommended by ARA, will require ~~an~~ ^{some} modification of the Humphrey/Kennedy Amendment which prohibits various kinds of military sales to Argentina. ~~First~~, From a practical standpoint it is probably already too late to ask Congress to act on this, this year. Normally speaking, the most appropriate vehicle for amending the Humphrey/Kennedy Amendment would be the FY. 81 Foreign Assistance Authorization Bill. This bill has already been marked up and reported by the two foreign relations committees of both Houses. ~~and~~ It is expected that the House will begin debate on this bill next Monday with votes to be expected possibly on Tuesday, and the Senate will take up the bill sometime shortly thereafter. At this point, therefore, the Administration would be required to send up special legislation, which would require hearings, ~~new~~ ^{and} markups and would attract a great deal of attention.

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